over a decade now. Disinvestment of Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs) is, however, a continuous process. Government keeps considering proposals for disinvestment in various PSUs from time to time through inter-Ministerial consultations. After considering all relevant viewpoints, Government takes a final decision about disinvestment of a PSU in line with the approved policy. The policy of the Government is to bring down the equity in non-strategic PSUs to 26% or lower in the generality of cases. The non-strategic PSUs are those, which are not in the areas of arms and ammunitions and the allied items of defence equipment etc., atomic energy (except in the areas relating to generation of nucler power and applications of radiations and radio isotopes to agriculture, medicine and non-strategic industries) and railway transport. In February 2002, Government had decided 'in principle' to disinvest in BPCL/ HPCL, which PSUs are not in the strategic sector, through strategic sale with the modalities to be worked out through consultations between the different Ministries concerned on which several options are available. Final decision has not been taken so far.

Rehabilitation of sick Public Sector Units

†1231. DR. PRABHA THAKUR : Will the Minister of DISINVESTMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that despite an expenditure of Rs. 34000 crore on the rehabilitation, 23 sick companies of the public sector are still sick;

(b) if so, the names of these companies;

(c) whether it is also a fact that even after spending so much amount the possibility of their restructuring is very dim; and

(d) if so, the steps taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF DISINVESTMENT (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE): (a) to (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Disinvestment of NTC

1232. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA : Will the Minister of DISINVESTMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have any proposal to disinvest the National Textile Corporation which is incurring losses every year;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.